

PEACE NEWS

No. 550 December 27, 1946 2d.

HAMBURG-COVENTRY

LINK-UP

"Forgiveness and rebirth" radio theme

On Christmas Day the notes of the ancient hymn "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) carried the message, "forgiveness and rebirth," between two war-battered cities—Coventry and Hamburg.

At 2 p.m. the Provost of Coventry Cathedral was to speak over the BBC service to the people of Hamburg.

Through Hamburg radio, relayed by the BBC came a reply from Pastor Bernhard Mecklenburg, a Roman Catholic priest who was imprisoned in Dachau concentration camp for nearly three years.

He was to tell the British people how people are living today in the worst-bombed part of Hamburg.

"I shall thank the Provost for his Christmas wishes to us. Our text will be 'Forgiveness and rebirth,' he said earlier.

"The Provost will speak from the crypt of the destroyed Coventry Cathedral, and I shall make my broadcast from a camp for bombed-out German children."

A children's choir in Coventry was to sing an English hymn before German children, from five to eight years old, sang "Stille Nacht."

The Coventry-Hamburg broadcast was to take place early in the World Round-up feature, and was on the Home, Light and Overseas programme.

A recorded message by the Mayor of Coventry, Alderman George Briggs, was also broadcast on Christmas Day from Hilversum, Holland.

'SAVE EUROPE NOW'

The Christmas rush hour!

THERE was no slackening of demand in the "Save Europe Now" office as Christmas approached. Demands for labels continued to pour in, and over forty workers were kept busy till late on Christmas Eve.

One minor but useful concession was announced just before Christmas—cod liver oil, halibut oil, and vitamin capsules have been taken off the official contraband list for parcels to Germany. But they must still not be sent with food parcels. Clothing and comfort parcels, however, may now contain them.

"Save Europe Now" are over half-way with their special "London Appeal" and nearly quarter-way towards the grand total of £125,000 European Fund for immediate relief through existing relief organisations.

The eleventh van-load of food and comforts collected by Peace Pledge Union will shortly be despatched, and should reach Germany early next month.

With reference to the new privileges for German PoWs, the Daily Mail reported an interview with Dr. Cyril Alington, Dean of Durham (who recently welcomed 1,100 PoWs as "my German brothers" at a service in the Cathedral). The Dean said: "It is a great step forward. I'm sorry there is no camp within five miles of me."

THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

Peace News wishes
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all our readers

THE human race is capable of making itself believe anything; and it is especially in matters of religion that it has been able to believe the most extravagantly impossible things—believing them with absolute conviction, and shaping life to their requirements in all sorts of fantastic ways, yet without an atom of proof that they were true.

And nothing has more divided the world, or made it more difficult for men to understand, tolerate, or behave decently to each other, than their religious differences, to which they have given an importance and a sanctity transcending all other differences produced by race, culture, and environment.

But—whether we regard it as a paradox, or as a consolation prize bestowed on us by the beneficent process of "trial and error" made necessary by the fallibility of the human mind—man has been able to discover, through all this antagonistic diversity thrust upon him by his Gods, certain fundamental spiritual truths and life values, about which he has come to a far greater unity of agreement than the theological differences of opinion could ever have provided for him. And the proof that they are true does not rest—as the theologians would make them rest—on a theological basis, but on their actual effect on the lives of those who practise them.

Life-values

Civilised man has come to a very general agreement (however imperfect in implementing it) as to the life-values, individual and social, of certain qualities of conduct—kindness, fellow-feeling, consideration for others, tolerance, self-sacrifice—the laying down of life for one's friends: rarest, and most difficult of all—love

by
LAURENCE HOUSMAN

for one's enemies. And these require no theological backing to prove them true: they are put to the proof in human nature, and in human nature they stand the test, for they go unerringly to the making of the good man, and the Good Society. They are the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

St. Paul, in his Epistle to the Galatians, enlarges the category, calling it "the fruit of the spirit." "The fruit of the spirit," he says, "is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." And yet, in war, with denial and betrayal, we break away from all of them; and in many countries those who remain faithful to them become breakers of the law, and are sent to prison. Nor is it only the ordinary common man, the indifferent and the half-hearted, who turn them down: a large majority of our church dignitaries and ministers of religion lead the way, and give their support to war.

For the faithful following of Christ's teaching, we have been given four fundamental statements of how man should live in relation to his fellow men: love your neighbour as yourself; love your enemies; resist not evil; overcome evil with good. They are all entirely untheological; there is nothing supernatural about

them; they belong to the world, as the expression of human nature at its best.

They are the Way, the Truth, and the Life; the practice of that of which da Vinci—one of the greatest minds of the middle ages—declared Christ to be the embodiment—"Eternal Necessity"; the one and only way for man's salvation from his ever-increasing power of self-destruction. That Eternal Necessity confronts us today more than ever before in the whole of the world's history.

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IN the doubtful interim between the last war and the next (unless change of heart comes to save us from ourselves) we are proposing to "re-educate" Germany, with every one of those fruits of the spirit left out. Among the hundreds of square miles of her ruined cities, in the destruction of her industries, in the semi-starvation of her populations—without any national shame or repentance for our own acceptance of the Atomic Bomb as our final means to victory in the Far East, we are giving ourselves airs of moral superiority as we set ourselves to demonstrate to our defeated enemies the corrective values—not of Christianity, but of "Democracy"!

Conducted against such a background, in such a spirit, it is a monstrous superstition to which we have committed ourselves—so incredibly foolish that there has been nothing worse in all the religious superstitions that have preceded it in former ages. It is the up-to-date superstition of the saving grace of Power-Politics. And it will fail.

Tolerance and the peaceful society

COMMENTARY

by

John Middleton Murry

IT is passing strange that sometimes pacifists who are the champions of liberty of conscience should affect an almost unearthly indifference to the crucial difference between the free society and the totalitarian society.

I was reminded of this by a recent correspondence in The Times (Dec. 16-18) in which Mr. Randolph Churchill incriminated Mr. R. H. Crossman for an interview which he recently gave to "The New Republic," and in which he repeated his recent argument in the House of Commons to the effect that Britain ought to be neutral in sympathy and policy as between USA and Soviet Russia.

A good many pacifists would agree with this. Yet I am convinced it is wrong. For it is of the essence of the free society that it respects conscience, and it is of the essence of the communist society that it does not. No doubt if this vital difference ultimately issues in war between the two societies, as it very well may, the absolute and unconditional pacifist will refuse to support the free societies; but that he should pretend to moral indifference as between them is almost a spiritual monstrosity.

Tolerance essential

IT is on the reality and the respect for conscience that the life of the free society depends. The tolerance which is the necessary condition for its working is the actual behaviour which expresses the recognition of the reality of conscience, and the respect for it. On the large political scale this finds utterance in the moral law which enjoins that the political majority must grant the minority full freedom to become the majority and so displace itself as the government.

That this obligation is felt as a moral law in the free society is, when soberly considered, the most astonishing

political achievement of man. Because it is universally recognised within the free society, and has become a habit of mind, we take it too easily for granted and are insufficiently alert to the menace of political doctrines which threaten it. This moral law which enjoins respect for the minority is a law which completely overrides the so-called "necessities of state."

Law and necessity

BECAUSE of this, unless the free societies recognise that they are bound to one another, they will almost certainly be destroyed. Because they recognise a moral law which overrides state law, or rather with which the laws in a free society must always be harmonious, they are capable of working in harmonious alliance together: they can understand one another, and trust one another because they have a common frame of reference.

In Soviet Russia (as in Nazi Germany) they are confronted with a morally autonomous society, which recognises no law beyond its own necessities. This is true both of the domestic relations of the Russian state to its own citizens, and its foreign relations with outside nations. It is indeed a datum.

To fail to recognise the significance of this, though it is very natural, because the morally autonomous society is to the Englishman an almost inconceivable thing, is nevertheless positively criminal at this moral crisis in human history. And it is the prevalence of this moral blindness among the "intellectuals" of this country, responsible members of a highly developed free society, which

arouses the suspicion that the free society of Britain may, after all, be far gone in spiritual decay; because it is ceasing to be aware of its own essential nature, of the reality and inestimable value of that loyalty to the moral law, supreme over the state, without which the free society cannot live.

"C'est magnifique, mais..."

THE UN assembly passed the Indian resolution condemning South Africa for its racial discrimination; and the South African request that S.W. Africa be incorporated in the Union was refused. South Africa was summoned to submit a draft Trusteeship agreement.

The Assembly did right. And it has established a precedent which diplomats of the old school would call dangerous, and some of the new school may find embarrassing. The Assembly has now declared itself competent to decide, by a two-thirds majority, whether an issue is solely within the domestic jurisdiction of a State or not. Is USA entirely safe from charges of racial discrimination? Is Russia?

Morally, the Assembly was on firm ground; legally, the ground was very shaky: for Article 2 of the Charter expressly excludes from discussion matters "essentially within the jurisdiction" of any state. But a real move forward has a way of being unconstitutional.

Chaos and law

TWO sentences worth meditating from a review of John Hersey's "Hiroshima" (Penguin 1s.) in The Times Literary Supplement (Dec. 7).

(1) "Some of the heirs of the Victorian honest doubter may have thought that over Hiroshima Chaos dawned on God."

(2) "The contemporary paradox is that the human race is marching by converging paths, under the impulse of some law, to the point of thought and action where law ends and anarchy begins."

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4
Stamford Hill 2262

All letters on other than editorial matters
should be addressed to the Manager

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

SEVEN or eight years ago, when our plans for the future were already being qualified by an unspoken Hitler volens, how often we used to regret that the PPU had made its appearance so late! If only, in the early 'twenties, we used to say, there had been an equally active pacifist movement in this country, campaigning, among other things, for revision of the Armistice while revision could still not be called appeasement, Europe might have been won for peace. We did not expect the opportunity to be repeated.

Yet some of the same conditions exist to-day as existed after the first world-war. Europe is even more chaotic, more demonically possessed by revenge and fear: but this very state of flux, which so often appals us, has its own more hopeful aspect. It is at just these moments of history, when old formulas have been swallowed up, as Carlyle showed so dramatically in "The French Revolution," that new ideas and ideals are put to the proof, to jostle one another, sink or swim, according to the truth or falsehood in them—the degree, that is, to which they correspond to the realities of human nature. It is just when the land has been ploughed and broken that seeds can be sown, and they need not always be dragon's-teeth.

Some day this vast, molten mass will solidify, and then sledge-hammers will be required to shape it. Now, if ever, is the time to mould it to our heart's desire. Not that we shall get things all our own way, of course—there are far too many contrary influences at work for that—but our ideas will not be without effect on the final outcome, it might even be decisive effect, if we not only promulgate but act upon them.

★

That, however, is the condition, and how many of us appreciate even that, in practice as well as in theory? Only a few weeks ago, we filled this column with a lusty call upon readers to write to their M.P.s., about the subject of food for Germany, only to realise with blushes that we ourselves had as yet done nothing of the sort! Nearly all of us tend to act, or fail to act, in this way.

At our A.G.M.s., we pass resounding resolutions, and then, how many of us, sit back as though something had been accomplished? Having said, "we will resist conscription," we imagine conscription being resisted; having said "we will support pacifist service," we mistake voting-cards for five-pound notes. We treat resolutions as though they were some kind of doodle-bug, which, once released, will speed to its mark without further guidance from us; whereas, in actual fact, they are not even good defensive weapons — no rocket has ever been stopped by a resolution, nor are atom-bombs made innocuous by amendments.

If we are going to make any Resolutions for 1947, let us, therefore, begin with this one: to do without resolutions in future, unless they really record a determination to act: For if they do not—why, we might as well resolve to keep diaries.

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or PPU connexion with, the matter advertised.

The Black Market in Germany

DARE WE CALL THIS A CRIME?

by GEOFFREY DANDO

WHEN is a Black Market not a Black Market? "Never," claims the purist. But the purist, maybe, has not had the discomfort of living under present-day conditions in Germany. I have.

Last month I spent an interesting ten days as an ordinary civilian in a typical German home. The experience taught me that a Black Market has two separate parts, the pitch black and the not-so-black. And from what I already knew of the little weaknesses of the English housewife, who also has this instinct of wanting to provide the best for her particular family, I satisfied myself that in similar circumstances the not-so-Black Market would thrive pretty well even in England.

Would this be so very wrong? I suggest that it certainly would not stamp us as a nation of criminals but would merely evidence our will to live. One must remember, too, that a good deal of what is normally thought of as Black Market dealing is nothing more than barter, the original and most immediately satisfying of all forms of commercial transaction. What law shall dare to restrict the freedom to exchange between friends?

No assured ration

Barter between individuals must continue. The authorities know this as well as anyone. With not even the basic ration regularly assured to the consumer, because of supply difficulties and of depletion of stocks by theft, the private transaction takes on a new urgency. It will go far towards saving life this winter.

Furthermore it will tend to draw out for more general use food which might otherwise have been hoarded by the growers. The figures showing the amounts of foodstuffs seized by the police in rail checks at Münster, for example, indicate not that the total quantity of food carried back to the towns is growing less (as it might otherwise appear) but that there is a lessening severity in the

official attitude towards this type of traffic. Here are the figures:—

	May, 1946	Sept. 1946
Potatoes	1,881 cwt.	56 cwt.
Butter	390 lbs.	57 lbs.
Eggs	9,342	1,635
Flour & Cereals	4,099 lbs.	685 lbs.
Pigs	80	22

Pigs, by the way, means live pigs. A squealing pig is rather a risky venture as contraband, so they are drugged for their travels. During September 279 pigs were confiscated in transit from the British to the French zones alone. (Trans-frontier smuggling of food has political implications and on this account remains as closely watched as ever).

Wholesale barter

It is understandable, though, that the same sort of thing carried on in wholesale proportions will only upset the whole table of quotas prepared at top level for the good of the community. Food intended for perhaps several hundreds will now serve the fancies of the few. There will be no provision for making good the public loss and somewhere or another a great many needy people will go hungry. This is why the Occupation authorities in Germany must deal ruthlessly with so-called compensation business, such as that reported from Wuppertal a few weeks ago in which a hardware firm was engaged in bartering hardware against the cheese supply of the whole of the city.

Food offences of another and equally unpardonable kind are those involving the printing of illicit ration cards. Under the "lucky dip" system common in some degree to all zones, the consumer is not required to register with specific shopkeepers, but this liberty involves him in an endless search for the shop which can still supply him. A shopkeeper, having no particular customers to satisfy, can part with his stock in a single transaction if he is a man without scruples and can produce the requisite number of food tickets. In Cologne recently, three printing presses were uncovered engaged solely in the output of counterfeit ration cards for the British and American Zones.

If the illicit distilling of spirits can be counted a "food offence," it is one

ported a recruiting campaign—surely the direct opposite of conscription. Or should we consider ourselves, as educationists for pacifism, conscriptionists for peace? It by no means follows, because we honour the man

LETTERS

who fights when he believes it right, that we should acknowledge the exemptions of C.O.s gratefully. Some of us base our opposition to conscription largely on the fact that we believe it is only necessary to stimulate thought and a sense of responsibility for the decision to be made, without any exceptional "conscience," our way. We may expect that where there is enthusiasm for a cause it is likely to be for ours. Our real enemy, in fact, is not mistaken patriotism, but despair and apathy.

Nobody's beliefs are ever "irrelevant." But where there is real belief in the method of war, conscription need not be introduced. We are apt to forget that its introduction is a confession of defeat by the militarists.

GWYNETH ANDERSON.

170 Adelaide Road, N.W.3.

WHILE I personally agree with my friend Albert Laverack in calling for complete opposition to the Conscription Acts, we must allow freedom of conscience to all C.O.s. An absolutist often begins by being prepared only to refuse combatant duties.

I want the PPU to do two things. First: to seek to increase the number of absolutists amongst pacifists, by more emphasis on this point of view and by publicising more often reasons for objecting to the alternatives. Second: to make now a determined effort to prevent conscription being

TURKEY SHIP

£51,000,000 is the total of our extra Christmas spending during the past three weeks. The "Turkey Ship" has raced here from the Argentine at all-out speed with a 15,000 ton cargo of poultry: detritus swung into position and hatches opened as she entered the Thames, so that no time would be lost, whilst day and night shifts were worked in unloading the ship. She was one of the "Christmas Armada" which has just invaded this fortunate country by sea; and 375 tons of tangerines are being flown by air to London in Halifax freight planes. Things aren't going to be so bad after all on the Christmas shopping front.

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A TRULY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

For you it will be tinged or shadowed with sadness as you remember the suffering and hunger in less happy lands. The money spent on these turkeys and tangerines raced here for Christmas is vastly more than "Save Europe Now" has any likelihood of collecting throughout the whole winter campaign which is being organised with so much effort.

We want to see a like concern and urgency for the timely supply of necessities to the hungry as has been shown in that of luxuries for ourselves. The work of our PPU Food Relief Committee throughout the dark years of war and now on behalf of S.E.N. has been and is amongst the most urgent and important claims upon our time and funds. The need continues.

MAUD ROWNTREE.
CORDER CATCHPOOL.
Joint Treasurers.

Contributions to HQ Fund since Dec. 13:
£13 18s. 4d. Year's total to date:
£325 16s. 11d.

Donations to the fund should be sent, marked "Headquarters Fund," to the Treasurers at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C.1.

that must be frowned upon as severely as any. It would be alarming to know the number of Allied personnel, quite apart from Germans themselves, who have drunk themselves to death on no more than a bottle of Schnapps. Any type of spirit is being added to this mixture to-day, for it long ago lost its standard blend. Petrol, methylated spirits, even wood alcohol are used. From a single bout of drinking reported from Luneberg a few days ago, four persons already have died, six are in danger of permanent blindness and fifteen are dangerously ill. In the month of September alone, 330 cases of illicit distilling were dealt with in the British Zone of Germany.

It will be seen, therefore, that where the police are taking a firm line in dealing with food racketeers it is always a matter involving either the wholesale misappropriation of supplies or the selling of seriously sub-standard goods.

For the rest of it... well, it's just the obvious commercial practice of a country living under conditions of dire emergency. Everywhere, and at every level, linen or soap or cigarettes, or anything but relatively worthless Reichsmarks, these are the currencies which to-day buy food, and food means life.

imposed on our young boys for what may in all be a generation.

We have a strong appeal to make to all parents, employers, Trade Union leaders, but above all to our Christian brethren. Let us take heart that one in twelve of the present members of the House of Commons is with us; hard work could quadruple this number. Go to it!

LEONARD A. BIRD.

413 Wellington Street,
Grimsby.

Power or weakness?

HOWARD WHITTEN says in his article "Disarmament: A New Chance." "In 1939, when Britain was a world-power of the first rank..."

In the next paragraph he refers to "our new weakness."

Canvassing for NCC Petition signatures, I was continually told that "we don't want to be caught napping again, as we were in 1939."

Can Peace News please give us some facts and figures to show which of these opposing views of our position in 1939 is the more correct? It seems that people are saying, both in PN and elsewhere, just what happens to suit their own particular arguments on this matter.

Surely if we were "a Power of the first rank" in 1939, with only the very beginnings of conscription, it cannot be correct to describe us now as displaying "new weakness," after seven years of conscription and the country almost covered with military training areas and aerodromes—to say nothing of rocket-bomb, atom bomb and poison gas factories etc., and research stations.

WILFRED C. LAMB.

28 Meadow Close,
Ruislip, Middlesex.

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KINGSWAY H

4. 4 p.m., "At World Peace." C Speakers: Kathle, Gerald Bailey, M/ B.Sc. Conference Organised by F.O. Committee.

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NORWAY'S NO!

Conscription for women debated

NORWAY has been absorbed for the past few weeks by the question of compulsory military service for women. The special committee set up by the Defence Commission suggested that conscription should be extended to both sexes.

The waves of discussion at once rose high. Many women seem prepared to accept such a development. All too many believe in the protective value of fear, and a remark by one of the witnesses at Nuremberg that if Norway's military defences had been stronger Hitler would not have had time or strength to attack has played into the hands of the advocates of a strong defence force.

The organised women's groups oppose conscription for women, though on a variety of grounds—few of them pacifist—although hardly any are openly opposed to conscription as such.

Call for a vote

The Women's International League have sent a resolution to the Government stating that such an important proposal should come through the programme of one of the political parties and be a matter on which the nation expressed its opinion through the vote before it could be adopted.

The National Council of Women and the Association for Equal Rights for Women have both passed resolutions opposing military service for women and this was discussed by their branches up and down the country. The latter association argues that by bearing children women make a contribution to Society which more than compensates for conscription for men. They also object to any kind of forced civil service for women. Another argument used is the increase there would be in the total number of young persons under military training and, incidentally, taken away from normal work, as there has been no question of reducing the number of men called up.

Women for Germany

The question has been mixed up with the proposal to send 100 women volunteers with the 4,500 Norwegian troops who are to share in the Occupation of Germany. This has aroused violent opposition in certain quarters, especially as the girls were to be 18-20 years old. They had already been selected for training which included the use of weapons. First, shooting practice was stopped and then the whole plan cancelled.

There is some lack of clearness as to women's position in England during the war but it is recognised that Norway would be the first country to introduce conscription of women in peace-time.

The Defence budget has now been up for discussion in the Norwegian Parliament and a vote taken on the question of conscription for women. The suggestion was defeated and it was interesting that the voting cut

IN SICILY TODAY

SICILY extends the experience of Southern Italy.

The marks of war are not so apparent, however, and the general European cynicism is covered over by a more hectic interest in commerce; but underneath the apparently gay and carefree exteriors of the cities, there are the same spectres of unemployment, inflation and want. The streets throng with young men who have nothing to do, nor any prospect of work in the future, unless it be peddling in the Black Market. Ex-Service men, repatriated POWs, youths too young for the army—all potential additions to that section of the Sicilian population which economic pressure compels to live by its wits—or emigrate.

But I have seen no direct evidences of malnutrition. Sicily is not a land which hides its poverty, yet in the poorest quarters the children, though ragged, look healthy enough. The shops everywhere are splendid with stocks of goods that would collect crowds were they displayed in England. The many street markets parade a profusion of foodstuffs and merchandise that were but memories to us a few months ago. But trade is not brisk, for mostly it is black or "free" market, which few can afford.

Sicilian politics divide into two camps. On one side there is the Liberale-Democratic-Quarantist front—a league of Liberals, Christian-Democrats and Uomo-Quarantist, and on the other side, the Socialist-Communist Bloc. On the fringe of the political arena is the movement for Sicilian Independence, but its propaganda does not appear to be taken very seriously. Sicily is overwhelmingly anti-Communist, with the new

partly Uomo-Quarantist rapidly capturing the favour of those who are losing faith in the present Coalition Government.

I recently spoke to one of the many Sicilians who worked in Germany during the war. He said nothing about forced labour, and smiled incredulously at the notion of teutonic brutality! All the way through this Italian journey one is conscious of having been hood-winked by war propaganda. The periodicals here still carry feature articles on German oppression and alleged atrocities, yet one cannot confirm anything on the spot. People say: "I have heard it said, etc., etc." but it is all very vague, and no-one seems convinced. The usual reply to direct questions regarding Germans in Sicily is that they were what was expected of them—correct and brave as allies, ruthless but just as enemies—a far remove from Allied propaganda.

As on the mainland, the general expectation for the near future is another war. The Italians and Sicilians realise that, by comparison with the Germans, they have come off very lightly, but they say that recovery for Germany is but a matter of 10 years or so, whereas Italy is ruined for 100 years! Few can grasp the scale of the German defeat.

Certainly Sicily is a paradise compared with Central Europe, if half of the reports are true. The darkest comment on the poverty and distress of Sicily is but a traveller's aside to the stark horror one feels at the BBC broadcasts given by Control Commission Officers from Germany. Conditions are worsened in Sicily by the war—it is even true to say that for many thousands there is famine, but this cannot be termed catastrophic.

FREDRICK LOHR.

GEORGE DAVIES CALENDAR

THE Welsh PPU Calendar for 1947 is on sale at Peace News office—price, including envelope, 1s. (1s. 1d. by post).

Many members of PPU will appreciate the picture of our new Chairman, and his facsimile handwriting message on the front.

Quantities are available from Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, 161 Lake Road, West Cardiff, Glam.

For Calendar for 1947 has an attractive drawing of Fellowship House, and is also available from Peace News—or Fellowship of Reconciliation, 38 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1. Price 9d. (postage 1d. extra).

across party lines, which is unusual in Norway. The opposition shown by the women's organisations makes it unlikely that the matter will be raised again.

MYRTLE A. WRIGHT.

Ten Years Ago

PEACE NEWS, Dec. 26, 1936

The shortage of food and other necessities in Barcelona is graphically illustrated by our Correspondent in Spain who wrote in a recent letter

"In the streets this afternoon were long lines of women waiting for food shops to open at four after the midday interval. One queue was 45 paces long. Each dairy has a long line outside, and the cafes no longer serve milk at all."

Clearly the main thing we have to take to heart as a strong movement making a determined effort to change the whole outlook of our nation and the world from one that envisages war as a possible last resort, to one that makes peace inevitable, is that we shall make no further appreciable progress except in proportion as we make perfectly plain the vital connexion between rejection of the war method and acceptance and active pursuance of the "righteousness" of which the effect is peace.

December 27, 1946, PEACE NEWS-3

FILM REVIEW

SCHOOL FOR SECRETS

TWO things struck me particularly as I was watching the film "School for Secrets"—or rather the same thing twice. There were moments which seemed to me to reveal an insensitive, even callous handling of the subject-matter. Perhaps I am myself unduly sensitive on the points at issue; anyway, they will, I think, be of interest to readers of Peace News.

The first sequence in the film which made me wonder was concerned with the thousand-bomber raid on Cologne. We saw the actual film taken on that occasion—incessant flashes, smoke, innumerable pin-points of fires—and then we were faded into a dance-floor and the petty squabble which one of the radar scientists was having with his wife. Here was irony, if you like, but was it pointed as such? The human tragedy involved in that mass bombing of a city was completely subjugated to the comparatively superficial issue of the success of the instruments which enabled it to be carried out. Or have I gravely misjudged what was in Ustinov's mind?

The second instance of what, to put it mildly, may be called bad taste shows Ralph Richardson's "comic" fear at the sight of a German sentry just strangled by a commando; this, too, is handled with an eye more for amusement than anything else.

Let me not be misjudged: I think "School for Secrets" an intelligent, witty, and entertaining film—for the most part. But it also strives a little too self-consciously to be funny at every possible moment, and at even those moments when one would not have thought it either possible or desirable. To be witty at the expense of human nature is one thing; to be casual or facetious—yes, facetious is the word—about some of the most appalling features of the late war is another.

W. H. GELDER.

JACK CARRUTHERS

AT the end of this year, Jack Carruthers will be leaving the service of the CBCO, for which he has been working ever since 1940. Jack finds writing a farewell message difficult:

"I must be careful not to say that I think the unconditionalists wonderful because those who have accepted alternative service might think I was having a crack at them. I can't make jokes about long hair and sandals; I must have respect for food reformers and teetotalers, and I mustn't have a bias towards the Political or the Religious. I ought to go in for a bit about sticking together and not thinking the job is over because we ourselves have worked our passage, but no doubt a weightier pen will do this. . ."

So we will take the message as read, and be content with sending our grateful good wishes to him in whatever new work he intends to undertake.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

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TERMS: Cash with order, 3d. per word, minimum 2s. 6d. (Box No. 6d. extra). Please don't send stamps in payment, except for odd pence. Maximum length: 60 words. Address for Box No. replies: Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4. When corresponding with PN about an advertisement, quote its first words, classification, and date.

MEETINGS, &c.

KINGSWAY HALL, W.C.2. Jan. 4, 4 p.m., "Atomic Energy and World Peace." Chair: Doris Lester. Speakers: Kathleen Lonsdale, FRS, Gerald Bailey, M.A., Alex Wood, M.A., D.Sc. Conference for young people, Organised by F.O.R. and PPU Youth Committees. LONDON, W.C.1. 8 Endsleigh Gardens. Next group meeting, Jan. 3. "France and Pacifism." Gerard Vidal, of Paris. Central London Group PPU.

ACCOMMODATION

YOUNG LADY, anarchist-pacifist, requires furn. accommodation urgently (quiet house, no restrictions) in London. Box 575.

DELIGHTFULLY SITUATED. Sunny Surrey, Vegetarian Guest House, cradled amidst beautiful pine-woods, 2½ acre grounds, brochure "Pinebrae," Lower Bourne, Farnham. Telephone Farnham 417.

DERBYSHIRE HILLS. Food Reform Vegetarian Guest House for happy holidays or restful recuperation; all modern comforts. A. and K. S. Ludlow, The Briars, Crich, Matlock. (Station: Ambergate. Tel.: Ambergate 44).

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

EDUCATIONAL

SPEAKING AND WRITING lessons (correspondence or visit) 5s. classes 1s. 6d. Dorothy Matthews, B.A., 32 Primrose Hill Rd., London, N.W.3. PRIMROSE 5686.

SCHOOLS

THERE IS nothing "special" about Becketts—in an atmosphere of understanding and spaciousness independence and initiative grow. Blackbrooke, Skenfrith, Mon.

FOR SALE & WANTED

WAR RESISTERS' International wd. welcome gifts of foreign stamps for subsequent sale on behalf of W.R.I. funds. Any such gifts received with gratitude. Pl. send to the War Resisters' International, 11 Abbey Rd., Enfield.

PEACE NEWS Economy Labels (for re-using envelopes, etc.) available again. Good propaganda 1s. 9d. 100 (pctge. 2d. extra), 1,000 lots less 25% dia. Order from Peace News, Ltd., 3 Blackstock Rd., London, N.4. or your P.N. distributor.

LITERATURE, &c.

ART AND Music Reading, a postal leading library service of new books on Music, the Visual Arts, Theatre and Architecture. Write for prospectus, Sec. Art and Music Reading (pa), 59, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

"THE FARMER"

—illustrated quarterly Journal of Natural Farming and Living. Winter number includes contributions on composting, vaccination, benevolent bacteria, artificial insemination, community murder by Government food orders, and many others from Sir Albert Howard, Newman Turner, Dr. C. V. Pink, Peter Freeman, M.P. Annual subscription 6s. 6d. post free, from the farm where natural methods are successfully practised. Edited by Newman Turner, Goose Green Farm, Bridgwater, Somerset.

QUAKERISM. Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

PERSONAL

C.O., 36, desires to contact female companion of same thought, vegetarian, civil servants barred. Box 605.

CONTACT CLUB. Congenial pen friendships for all. Parties, exp. Sec., P.N. 19 Ty Fry Gdns., Rumney, Cardiff.

ASTROLOGY.—A free Test Horoscope. Helpful advice and guidance. Send Birthdate, stamped-addressed envelope. The Psycho-Success Institute, (A.28), 64 Aldermanbury, London, E.C.2.

SITUATIONS VACANT

We cannot confirm satisfactory conditions of employment in all posts advertised. Applications in doubt are recommended to consult the Central Board for C.O.s, 6 Endsleigh St., W.C.1, which will often be able to give useful advice.

BECKETTS SCHOOL need cook, matron and qualified teacher for junior group for educational community. Apply Blackbrooke, Skenfrith, Mon.

GARDENER NEEDED school Community. Becketts, Blackbrooke, Skenfrith, Mon.

DRAPERY TRADE. Demobilised C.O. with 18 years' experience in ladies' and children's hosiery and underwear seeks situation within travelling distance of Chadwell Heath. Suggestions please to CBCO, Employment Sect., 6 Endsleigh St., W.C.1.

SITUATIONS and WORK WANTED

FIRST CLASS duplicating of all descriptions, typewriting, etc. Mabel Eyles, 2 Aberdeen Park, Highbury N.5. Tel. Canonbury 8862.

C.O. (UNCONDITIONAL). 23. G.I.Mech.E., G.I.E.E., wide cultural background, experienced in numerous occupations, some typing, needs position. Preferably intellectual work. Suggestions please to CBCO, Employment Section, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

MISCELLANEOUS

A WORD to the ailing. Do not despair. Start today. Send for two 20-page booklets of encouraging life-conserving information about Garlic, which comes nearer to a universal remedy than anything given by Nature for the use of man. Send stamps 6d. to Allysol Company, Fairlight, Sussex.

ACCOUNTANT C.O. writes up traders bks.; attends to all Income Tax matters; company formation; audits and costing. Provincial clients visited without obligation. Box 98.

SHEPPARD PRESS, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4, invites MSS of books appealing to a well-informed, discriminating public. Send synopsis in first instance.

"THE NO Conscription Amendment—How Parliament received an amendment to the Address against the extension of peace-time conscription"—a new pamphlet published by the No Conscription Council, Room 16, Kingsway Hall, W.C.2. 4d. (postage 1d.) reduction for quantities.

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or PPU connexion with, the matter advertised.

COMMENTARY CONTINUED

IT behoves pacifists, more than other people, to think straight: and not to be gulled by the conventional socialist claptrap to the effect that capitalism cancels out the freedom of the free society, and that therefore a free society which is a capitalist society—as USA is, and as Britain very largely still is—has no moral superiority over a socialist society which is a totalitarian society. That is nonsense. A free society that is capitalist, is capitalist because it wants to be capitalist: which is the very best reason. A socialist society that is totalitarian is, for that very reason, not socialist because it wants to be socialist—or it would not be totalitarian—but because a small group of determined and ruthless people are compelling it to be socialist.

But to the British socialist, whose morality is not corrupted, compulsory socialism is a contradiction in terms. Such socialism has nothing whatever to do with the doctrine preached by the founder of the Labour Party—Keir Hardie. It is absolutely opposed to any democratic socialism.

A word for capitalism

MOREOVER, the socialism of a free society will have to include a very considerable amount of private capitalism within its system. If it ceased to be possible for anyone who could scrape up a few hundred pounds to start an independent journal, where would the necessary freedom of opinion be? So much capitalism, at least, is obviously quite essential to any genuinely democratic socialism. And a great deal more than that is necessary. Pacifists ought to think honestly about these things, for they are the most conspicuous example of a tolerated minority.

For them to talk wildly as though a capitalist free society was a monstrous humbug compared to the shining sincerity of a totalitarian socialist society is disgraceful. Capitalism, in its modest forms, is probably the only effective guarantee of the freedom of the free society, short of a quite unimaginable spiritual transformation of the members of the free society into saints—or perfectly disinterested citizens of the New Jerusalem. And, finally, it is capitalism which has made pacifism possible.

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Bus 29, "The Cherry Tree").

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Editor: LARRATT BATTERSBY

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PPU BADGE?

Two styles available—
buttonhole or brooch

6d.

Dick Sheppard House,
Endsleigh St., W.C.1.

Western "ignorance"
of the Far East

- Tom Harrison's warning

AT the NPC lunch hour meeting on Friday week Mr. Tom Harrison said that the Far East is a mass of potential trouble spots. The Chinese war has flared up once more, and in Java, Malay and Siam there are revolts, unrest and sporadic fighting, while in Dutch Borneo, Burma and the Philippines the situation boded future trouble.

The ignorance in the West about these little wars was profoundly alarming, for the issues behind them and the developments to which they were leading would affect the peoples of the whole world.

Among the issues facing the world in the East were the rising native consciousness of political life, which was largely on a racial basis, often uninformed and dangerous; the rise of Communism among the Chinese, and the growing influence of the Chinese outside China. There were also the effects, material and psychological, of the defeat of Japan, and its relation to the effects of the preliminary defeats of the "white man."

U.S. Socialists back
disarmament

The U.S. Socialist Party recently called on the General Assembly of the United Nations to take the first step towards realisation of one of the purposes of the United Nations Charter—"international peace and security"—by instituting action calling for universal disarmament.

The party's statement urged the assembly to give every opportunity for the voices of the smaller states to be heard, reports the New York "Call."

OUR TRAINING

"Clearly the Army must have its training grounds in this country, and even more than before the war,"—Daily Telegraph.
Into the brazen maw of Moloch swept
The unknown children, a vain
sacrifice
Offered by those believing, as they
wept,
Propitiation was man's best advice.
And did they think there'd ever be an
end?
Man's inhumanity to man might
cease,
Mankind, in tune with Nature, learn
to bend
Her forces to the simple aim of
peace?
The old vindictive gods two thousand
year
Are dead; man's history's still
writ in sand,
Falling forever through Time's
hourglass; Fear
Still cripples England's green and
pleasant land.
PHYLLIS VALLANCE.

Essays of a Nobel prizewinner

"Krieg und Frieden," Hermann Hesse.
(Fretz and Wasmuth Verlag,
Zurich. Price Fr. 13.80.)

HERMANN HESSE'S latest work "Krieg und Frieden" is a collection of his political essays and articles written between 1914 and 1946. From these it can be understood why the writer has been awarded the Nobel Prize of Literature, 1946.

Hermann Hesse is not a pacifist, he does not belong to the Ossietzky or Ludwig Renn class of writers, but his desire for peace and international understanding is very clearly expressed in his work. Mr. Hesse does not so much renounce war as a political instrument, as ridicule war policy, in a form which every reader will recognise—the negative form—for which even victory after war does not atone.

The author's political articles, which he wrote during the years 1917 and 1918, and in which he warned our universe not to create new nationalistic tendencies in Europe, could have been written shortly before or after the unconditional surrender of Germany and Japan. It is here where the greatness in Hesse's work lies. The author's farsightedness; and his

AMID WAR -

"CHRISTMAS 1943 — a n
RAF camp 40 miles from
Alexandria. On Christmas Eve
a party of us went carol-singing.
After visiting the officers mess
we were on our way to bed when
someone said 'What about the
PoW pen?' and we moved off to
the barbed wire compound.

"We had sung only a few
words of 'Holy Night' when all
the Italian prisoners were out of
their tents listening to us. The
carol ended they produced a flask
of wine, which we all tasted. I
suppose that, technically, this was
fraternisation, but it seemed to
be very much the spirit of Christ-
mas."

—from the Evening Standard,
Dec. 16.

- AND PEACE

THE Christmas carol "Holy
Night" may no longer be
sung at official or public Christ-
mas celebrations organised by
the Kindergarten teachers of
Schwerin, town of 50,000 in
Mecklenburg, in the Soviet zone
of Germany.

—from the Evening Standard,
Dec. 7.

CONCILIATION IN CALCUTTA

AN outstanding example of Hindu-
Moslem co-operation is the joint
mission sent to Calcutta, to inquire
into existing tensions and means of
avoiding similar outbreaks in the
future.

Gandhi's paper Harijan, recently
published a letter from a Moslem
expressing confidence that eventually
bitterness may give way to under-
standing, and telling how his family,
attacked by Hindus during one of the
worst Calcutta riots, was given
refuge by a neighbouring Hindu
family. When the rioters threat-
ened the Hindu host for his interven-
tion, he stood his ground, defying
the mob, and nearby Hindus came
bravely to the rescue.

International correspondence

The War Resisters International is
receiving requests from friends in
Europe, particularly Germany, who
would welcome the opportunity of
corresponding with English pacifists.
Will those wishing to avail themselves
of such an opportunity communicate
with the WRI, 11, Abbey Road,
Enfield, Middx., giving a few notes
about themselves, to help in linking
up suitable people.

PATRICK FIGGIS

Peace News is pleased to announce
that Patrick Figgis, ex-General
Secretary of the Peace Pledge Union,
who has been appointed Minister at
the Regent Square Presbyterian
Church, London, will preach his first
sermon there on the morning of Sun-
day, Jan. 5 at 11 a.m.

In U.S. jails for the
New Year

THE following members of the
American Section of the War
Resisters' International (War Re-
sisters' League, New York) will be
in prison for the New Year. Friends
in Britain are invited to send greet-
ings.

At Federal Correctional Institution, Sandstone,
Minnesota.

Agard H. Bailey,
Igal Roodenko.

At Federal Prison Hospital, Springfield,
Missouri.

Theodore C. Dettweiler,
LeRoy G. Mendez,

Joseph W. Reilly.

At Federal Penitentiary, McNeil Island,
Steilacoom, Washington.

Daniel Dingman.

At Federal Correctional Institution, Danbury,
Connecticut.

George Yamada.

At Federal Correctional Institution, Ashland,
Kentucky.

Morris Horowitz.

YOUTH CONFERENCE ON
ATOMIC ENERGY

A MEETING that should be of
interest to young people living
in and around London has been ar-
ranged by the Youth Committees of
FOR and PPU for Saturday, Jan. 4,
from 4-7 p.m. at Kingsway Hall,
London. The subject will be "Atomic
Energy and World Peace."

Doris Lester (Kingsley Hall, Bow)
will take the chair. Kathleen Lons-
dale, FRS, will speak as a scientist.
Gerald Bailey, MA, will deal with the
possibilities of international control.
Alex Wood, MA, DSc, will discuss the
spiritual challenge now confronting
us. There will be opportunity for
questions.

No tickets are required. Though
primarily for young people, older
people will not be debarred. It is a
great opportunity which I hope we
shall bring before the notice of our
younger friends.

P. H. F.

Words of Peace - No. 196

PATRIOTISM

When shall the saner, softer
policies
Whereof we dream, have play in
each proud land
And Patriotism, grown God-like,
scorn to stand
Bondslave to realms, but circle
earth and seas?
—Thos. Hardy.

Some thoughts for the
consideration of young men.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF
WAR AND CONSCRIPTION?
by BERNARD CANTER, price 3d.
Obtainable from
Friends Peace Committee, Friends House,
Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

WINTER SPORTS IN

SWITZERLAND
THE RIVIERA
CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guaranteed SUNSHINE is the slogan of
the above-mentioned holiday resorts.
Special Services by Air for the Winter
Sports Season in Switzerland.
Seats by Air and Rail and Steamer
guaranteed, but early booking essential.
Send for Winter Resorts
Brochure.

Bookings by Air, Rail and Steamer to
all parts.

G. F. HUELIN,

(late Holmes and Huelin),
7 ARGYLE RD., ILFORD ESSEX.

For
1947 Onward.
Wishing the Human
Race a Sane and Last-
ing Peace by World-
Co-operation controlled
by Human Intelligence and
run in the interest of Human
Needs.

REG. J. & MARIAN BAILEY,
99 Arnos Grove,
Southgate, N.14

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